

FD-36 (Rev. 2-14-74)

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FBI

39063ELW/BUE/PG
Date: 3/15/76

Transmit the following in Argentina Project CODE
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Via CABLE IMMEDIATE O
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TO: DIRECTOR (109-12a201) NR. -15

FROM: LEGAT BUENOS AIRES (109-2)

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3/8/85
Classified by 10/REP/AHR
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FOREIGN POLITICAL MATTERS - ARGENTINA; IS - ARGENTINA.

ON MARCH 15, 1976, RAYMOND MOLINA, A UNITED STATES
CITIZEN, WHO TOOK PART IN THE BAY OF PIGS INVASION OF CUBA,
PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IN BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA: (S) (U)

DURING THE PAST SEVERAL WEEKS, HE WAS PLACED IN CONTACT
WITH JORGE ANTONIO, A FORMER OFFICIAL IN THE GOVERNMENT OF
JUAN DOMINGO PERON, WHICH WAS OVERTHROWN IN 1955 BY A MILITARY
COUP D'ETAT. ANTONIO HAS BEEN RESIDING ABROAD EVER SINCE THE
1955 COUP AND IS AN ^{IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL} ~~ACTIVE~~ FINANCIER. ANTONIO, WHO IS ORIGINALLY
OF LEBANESE EXTRACTION, ^{ADVISED} ~~INFORMED THE SOURCE~~ THAT HE HAS BEEN
IN RECENT ^{FREQUENT} CONTACT WITH IMPORTANT MEMBERS OF THE ARGENTINE ARMY
REGARDING THEIR PLANS TO OUST INCUMBENT ARGENTINE PRESIDENT
MARIA ESTELA MARTINEZ DE PERON. ANTONIO CLAIMED THAT HE HAS AN
AGREEMENT WITH ARGENTINE ARMY LEADERS TO ARRANGE TO REFINANCE
ARGENTINA'S FOREIGN DEBT THROUGH ARAB SOURCES AVAILABLE TO
ANTONIO. <sup>IN EXCHANGE ANTONIO WILL PROVIDE EXCLUSIVE DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE
SHOWING THE IMPRABILITY + CORRUPTION OF PRESIDENT MARTINEZ DE PERON.</sup>
ANTONIO ARRANGED A PERSONAL MEETING FOR THE SOURCE
WITH GENERAL CARLOS ABERTO DALLA TEA, <sup>Secretary General of the Argentine Army
Estado Mayor (Army Command)</sup>
IN BUENOS AIRES ON MARCH 14, 1976,
AT THE HOME OF JORGE ANTONIO'S SON. GENERAL DALLA TEA (S) (U)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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Argentina Project

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109-2-1544

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PAGE TWO ~~SECRET~~ BUE 109e2

STATED THAT THE ARGENTINE ARMED FORCES WOULD OUST PRESIDENT
^{BETWEEN} PERON ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17, 1976, ^{AND} ~~OR~~ THURSDAY, MARCH 18,
1976, AND THAT THE MILITARY WOULD HOLD ABSOLUTE CONTROL FOR
THE FIRST TEN DAYS OF THE COUP. AMONG THE MANY POINTS COVERED
BY GENERAL DALLA TEA DURING THE MARCH 14, 1976, MEETING WITH THE
SOURCE, WERE THE FOLLOWING: ~~(S)~~ ~~(U)~~ ~~(S)~~ (U) ↑

1. THE ARGENTINE MILITARY DESIRE CLOSE COOPERATION WITH THE
UNITED STATES. ~~(S)~~ ~~(U)~~ ~~(S)~~ (U)

2. ~~GOA ARGENTINE ARMY~~ ^{COMMANDER IN CHIEF WILL BE THE ACKNOWLEDGED}
~~LEADER OF THE COUP.~~ ~~(S)~~ ~~(U)~~ ~~(S)~~ (U)

32. AFTER THE FIRST TEN DAYS OF THE COUP, THE ARGENTINE
MILITARY INTEND TO INCORPORATE CIVILIANS INTO THE GOVERNMENT
FILLING THE POSTS OF MINISTER OF FOREIGN RELATIONS, MINISTER
OF ECONOMY AND MINISTER OF FINANCE WITH CIVILIAN TECHNICIANS.

~~END PAGE TWO~~ THE ARGENTINE MILITARY BELIEVES THAT THE INCUMBENT
PERONIST GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN OVER CONTROL OF TOO MANY ^{PRIVATE} INDUSTRIES
AND REDUCED THE INCENTIVE FOR PRIVATE INVESTMENT IN ARGENTINA
TO AN UNACCEPTABLE DEGREE. IN THIS CONNECTION, THE ARGENTINE
MILITARY INTEND TO ESTABLISH IMMEDIATE CONTACT WITH THE INTER-
NATIONAL TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH ^(U) CORPORATION IN ORDER TO ^{ARRANGE FOR IT TO} TAKE
OVER THE ARGENTINE TELEPHONE COMPANY, WHICH IS IN A DISASTROUS ~~(S)~~ ~~(U)~~ ~~(S)~~ ↓

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Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

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PAGE THREE

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BUE 109-2

STATE BOTH FINANCE AND TECHNOLOGY-WISE. / JORGE ANTONIO ADVISED
THAT HE INTENDS TO RETURN TO ARGENTINA ON MARCH 20, 1976, AND
THAT HE ANTICIPATED OBTAINING A POSITION IN THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT.
JORGE ANTONIO FREELY ADMITS THAT HIS ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE IN
RETURNING TO ARGENTINA IS TO EVENTUALLY BE ELECTED PRESIDENT IN
A CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT, WHICH WILL FOLLOW THE MILITARY COUP ~~DE ETAT~~
D'ETAT. (~~S~~)(~~X~~)(~~S~~) - (U)

~~CLASSIFIED BY 5931 XGDS 2 INDEFINITE.~~

COORDINATED LOCALLY.

MOLINA WAS CONTACTED BY THE LEGAL ATTACHE AT THE SPECIFIC
REQUEST OF AMBASSADOR HILL. MOLINA ARRIVED IN BUENOS AIRES
3/12/76, ACCOMPANIED BY GENERAL GRAHAM, former CIA Deputy
Director, and several other individuals from Washington
connected with US Senators Jesse Helms and Strom
Thurmond. (~~S~~)(~~X~~)(~~S~~) - (U)

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Special Agent in Charge

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THE AMBASSADOR
VIA A/DCI

3/15/76

LUGATT ROBERT W. SCHERRER

9/12/85
Classified by 11678 REP/AHR
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FOREIGN POLITICAL MATTERS-ARGENTINA

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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On 3/13/76, I contacted Raymond Molina, a United States citizen of Cuban-American parentage, who arrived in Buenos Aires on 3/12/76. Molina advised he has business interests in Miami, Florida and Managua, Nicaragua, where he is a personal friend of President Somoza. Molina stated he took part in the ill-fated Bay of Pigs invasion in Cuba and maintains an active interest in seeing the demise of Fidel Castro. (S)(X)(S) (U)

Molina advised that for the past several months, an acquaintance named Jamil had been attempting to establish a personal meeting through Molina with officials of the United States Government for Jorge Antonio. Molina stated he was not interested in arranging for any contacts with Jorge Antonio through Jamil and more or less avoided any commitment in this regard. However, approximately four weeks ago Jamil contacted him in Managua in order to seek his intercession in arranging for an interview between President Somoza and Jorge Antonio. He arranged this interview and President Somoza subsequently advised him that he had been favorably impressed with Jorge Antonio and that the Nicaraguan Government intended to do business with Antonio. A personal meeting was then arranged between Molina and Jorge Antonio, during which the latter stated he desired to make himself known to the United States Government and explained background and plans for the future, stating that he intended to return to Argentina where he felt he could solve Argentina's terrorist and financial problems. (S) ↓ (U)

- cc's: 1 - Addressee
- 1 - POL
- 1 - POL-R
- 1 - DAO
- 1 - Econ Counsellor
- 1 - SY
- 1 - Bue (109-2)
- RWS:gjk
- (7)

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RE: FOREIGN POLITICAL MATTERS-ARGENTINA

Antonio advised that he believed he could halt Montonero operations against the government, since he has excellent contacts in that guerrilla organization and that he would be willing to act as a go-between in arranging a truce between the Montoneros and the Argentine Government. In the financial area, Antonio stated he is certain that he can solve Argentina's critical economic plight by arranging to refinance Argentina's foreign debt through Arab contacts. Antonio noted that the incumbent Peronist Government was completely corrupt and immoral and that he had sufficient proof to document a public expose of Mrs. Peron, Lopez Rega and other present and past officials in Mrs. Peron's Government. Antonio noted that he had established contacts with unnamed Argentine Army generals throughout various parts of the world and offered his services to them in the above-described terrorist and financial areas. Antonio informed Molina that he would arrange an interview by Molina with General Carlos Alberto Dalla Tea, the Secretary General of the Argentine Army Estado Mayor in order that General Dalla Tea might review the Argentine armed forces' plans for an imminent coup d'etat against the Government of Mrs. Peron. Antonio sent a letter via courier to Gen. Dalla Tea on 3/3/76 and an interview was scheduled formally with the General on 3/14/76. (S)(X)(S) (U) ↑

Antonio told Molina he desired to establish contact with members of the U. S. Government in order to explain his position to them and attempt to extract some form of understanding with the U. S. that the United States Government would not raise objections to his holding a position in the forthcoming military government after Mrs. Peron is deposed. Antonio frankly stated that one of his fears was that Secretary of State Kissinger, who is of the Jewish faith, might object to Antonio, who has close ties in the Arab world and who is originally of Lebanese extraction. (S)(X)(S) (U)

In order to prove that he wields influence with certain Central American leaders which could be used to benefit Argentina, Antonio stated that he would arrange with Panamanian President Torrijos to send word to opponents of returning the Panama Canal in the United States Senate that he, Torrijos, would moderate his propaganda outbursts and get down to serious negotiations with the United States. According to Molina, (S)(X)(S) (U)

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RE: FOREIGN POLITICAL MATTERS-ARGENTINA

Torrijes did send his Ambassador in Washington to relay this message to Senators Jesse Helms and Strom Thurmond. (S) (X) (S) (U) ↑

On 3/15/76, I again contacted Molina, who provided the following information: (S) (X) (S) (U)

During the afternoon and evening of 3/14/76, he met with Gen. Alberto Carlos Dalla Tea at the suburban residence of Jorge Antonio's son. Gen. Dalla Tea and Antonio's son, as well as their respective wives, obviously had met before and were on friendly terms. Gen. Dalla Tea outlined plans for a coup d'etat which will take place between 3/17/76 and 3/18/76 in order to oust President Peron. Gen. Dalla Tea acknowledged that he was aware of the fact that Jorge Antonio would return to Argentina on 3/20/76 and that he would be welcomed by the Argentine Military. Dalla Tea told Molina that the Argentine military will take exclusive control of the country for a period of approximately ten days, after which they will begin naming civilian technicians to hold key government positions and take over several ministries, including Foreign Relations, Economy and Finance. Gen. Dalla Tea told Molina the Argentine military recognized the fact they will have to take over several unions which will oppose a military coup but that they were prepared to do so. Gen. Dalla Tea told Molina that the Argentine military intend to arrest a number of officials, past and present, from Mrs. Peron's Government and put them on trial for economic crimes which have been documented by the Argentine Army. Gen. Dalla Tea told Molina that the Argentine military desire close relations with the United States. Additionally, Gen. Dalla Tea informed Molina that the Argentine military believe that the government has taken over too many private industries and that many of these should be returned to private control in order to encourage private investment and to relieve the government of committing its financial and personal resources to running these enterprises. In this connection, Gen. Dalla Tea specifically told Molina that the military intend to establish contact with the International Telephone and Telegraph Company in order to arrange for that company to again take over the administration and development of the Argentine Telephone Company. Gen. Dalla Tea informed Molina that Gen. Videla, Commander in Chief of the (S) ↓ (X) (S) (U)

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RE: FOREIGN POLITICAL MATTERS-ARGENTINA

Argentine Army, will be the unquestioned leader of the coup d'etat. (S) (X) (U) ↑

Molina noted that Antonio makes no secret of the fact that he initially desires to obtain a position in the government immediately after the military coup and eventually he hopes to run for election and become President of Argentina. (S) (X) (U)

Molina noted that the one flaw in the Argentine military preparations for the 3/17-18/76 coup d'etat was a lack of public relations preparation in order to explain their position to the outside world. Molina noted that he would be very much interested in securing a contract with the military government to handle their public relations. (S) (X) (U)

Molina advised that he is considering traveling to Montevideo, Uruguay and returning on 3/20/76 in order to place himself in personal contact with Jorge Antonio, who allegedly will return to Argentina on that date. (S) (X) (U)

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